

CANNON ART GALLERY HOSTS SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITION

In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits Highlights Celebrated Photographers And Global Human Subjects

The William D. Cannon Art Gallery presents *In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits*, an exhibition of 51 striking color and black-and-white photographs that highlights the work of some of National Geographic's most celebrated photographers. Created by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and National Geographic, the exhibition is organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). From fascinating archival images of tribal leaders, fishermen and American workers, to riveting modern pictures of refugees, city dwellers and urban laborers, *In Focus* takes visitors around the globe and through the heights and depths of human emotion. The exhibition opens on Sunday, January 20 with a public reception from 4pm to 6pm and continues through Sunday, March 16 at the William D. Cannon Art Gallery in the Carlsbad City Library Complex, 1775 Dove Lane at El Camino Real.

Memorable portraits have a simple, yet profound universal appeal; portraits can reflect the continuity of human experience over time or emphasize the physical and cultural differences that distinguish human beings from one another. National Geographic photographers have taken more pictures of people than of any other subject, indicating "a photographer's desire to connect with people—to capture something consequential about another person," writes National Geographic magazine associate editor Chris Johns. The portraiture photographic process requires that the subject commit time and energy, which makes for a deeper relationship between photographer and subject. In the process, the image becomes a collaboration between the two and has an intense intimacy into which the viewer is drawn. Such remarkable images reveal deep-rooted connections to the environment, to national identities, to gender roles and to cultural preferences. They reveal the historical context of the moment while shedding light on larger world views that have been modeled and re-cast throughout the centuries. Most importantly, an unforgettable portrait echoes the spirit of the sitter.

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people for more than 50 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history.

Operated by the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Office, the Cannon Art Gallery is a focal point for arts and culture in San Diego's North County, offering a broad range of

exhibitions, school and family programs, gallery tours, lectures and publications to the community. It is located at 1775 Dove Lane off El Camino Real and is open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays. For information on all Gallery programs, contact the Carlsbad Arts Info Line (760) 434-2904 or the Cannon Art Gallery (760) 602-2021 or the City of Carlsbad website, www.carlsbadca.gov/arts.

Additional Programs

In conjunction with the exhibition *In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits*

the Cannon Art Gallery will present the following free programs:

Opening Reception and Screenings of Documentary Film, "The Photographers"

Sunday, January 20, 2008

Reception - Cannon Art Gallery 4-6pm, Free

Screenings - Schulman Auditorium, 3pm and 5pm, Free

Carlsbad City Library Complex 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad

Bring the family, join the local arts community and enjoy the exhibition and light refreshments at the Opening Reception for *In Focus* from 4pm until 6pm. Meet the remarkable artists behind the cameras in a 56-minute documentary about the celebrated photographers of National Geographic. (*Notice: The film is not rated, but some imagery may be disturbing and inappropriate for young children). First showing at 3pm; second showing at 5pm.

Family Open Studio

Saturday, February 9, 2008 11am-2pm, Free

Cannon Art Gallery Courtyard, Carlsbad City Library Complex

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad

Family Open Studio is a hands-on art-making event designed for all ages! First, tour the exhibition in the William D. Cannon Art Gallery. Then meet the artist/educators who will set you up with a specially designed art project related to the exhibition. Finally, you get to take your completed work of art home. All materials and workspace are provided. No reservations required and stay as long as you like!

Family Open Studio Plus: Beethoven's Wig

Saturday, February 9, 2008 11:30am and 1pm, Free

Schulman Auditorium, Carlsbad City Library Complex

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad

Family Open Studio expands in February to include the performing arts with two presentations of *Beethoven's Wig*, the classical concert sensation for the whole family! The perfect blend of high brow and hijinks, each *Beethoven's Wig* concert is an interactive adventure that invites children and their families to delight in rousing new renditions of musical masterpieces by the world's most notable composers with lyrics by founder and lead vocalist Richard Perlmutter. First performance at 11:30am; second performance at 1pm. This program is made possible by the Carlsbad Library and Arts Foundation's Robert H. Gartner Cultural Endowment Fund.